

Message Text

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ACTION CU-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-15 /034 W
-----010180 061205Z /13

P 061000Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6375

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 12785

FOR CU/EU; PASS USIA IEU FOR ARNOLD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SEDU, OEXC, IT
SUBJ: EDUCATION, ELT, EXCHANGE PROGRAMS IN ITALY

REF: STRAUS-MODI TELCON AUGUST 1, 1977

1. SUMMARY: MISSION SUBMITS PROPOSALS SUBJECT FIELD. END
SUMMARY.

2. WE ARE EAGER LAUNCH NEW PROGRAMS SPRINGING FROM WHITE HOUSE
STATEMENT ISSUED AT CONCLUSION PM ANDREOTTI VISIT TO WASHINGTON.
WE BELIEVE IT IN OUR INTEREST SHOW RAPID AND SUBSTANTIAL RESPONSE
TO US-ITALIAN AGREEMENT ON "DESIRABILITY OF A NEW EFFORT OF
RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE IN WHICH... THE U.S. WOULD ASSIST IN THE
STRENGTHENING OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TEACHING AND AMERICAN STUDIES
PROGRAMS IN ITALY." BECAUSE ENGLISH TEACHING SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
IN CONTEXT OVERALL U.S. GOALS IN SUBJECT FIELD, WE GO BEYOND
IMMEDIATE QUESTION POSED REF TELCON. COST ESTIMATES ARE
NECESSARILY ROUGH. BALANCED PACKAGE OF RELATED PROJECTS
SHOULD INCLUDE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

3. /ENGLISH TEACHING/

A. /SURVEY ENGLISH TEACHING IN ITALY/: WE AND THE ITALIANS
KNOW ENGLISH TEACHING IN ITALY NEEDS HELP BUT WE NEED TO ANALYZE
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WHERE DIFFICULTIES LIE. THEREFORE PROPOSE SIX-MONTH CONTRACT
SURVEY (POSSIBLY BY CENTER APPLIED LINGUISTICS IN COOPERATION WITH TH
E
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION) ON CURRENT STATE ENGLISH TEACHING IN
ITALY FROM SECONDARY SCHOOL THROUGH UNIVERSITY. SURVEY SHOULD
EXAMINE USE TO WHICH ENGLISH LEARNING IS TO BE PUT, KIND OF ENGLISH-
TEACHING PROGRAM NEEDED FOR VARIOUS PROFESSIONS, STANDARDS,

TEACHING TECHNIQUES, MATERIAL DEFICIENCIES, NEEDS FOR TRAINING ENGLISH TEACHERS, FEASIBILITY AND VALUE OF AMERICAN TEACHING ASSISTANT PROGRAMS. RELATION OF ETP TO AMERICAN STUDIES SHOULD ALSO BE COVERED. ESTIMATED COST: \$100,000. (SUBSEQUENT COSTS WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO BE BASED ON SURVEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.)

B. /SUMMER INSTITUTE OF ENGLISH TEACHING/: USG WOULD BACKSTOP, MAINLY BY PROVIDING GRANTS FOR AMERICAN SPECIALISTS, ANNUAL SUMMER INSTITUTE ON ENGLISH TEACHING FOR 1000 ITALIAN TEACHERS TO BE HELD ON AN ITALIAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS. AMERICAN PROFESSORS WOULD COVER METHODS AND PROBLEMS OF PEDAGOGY, LINGUISTICS, PHONOLOGY, TEACHING OF LITERATURE AND USE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN ENGLISH TEACHING. WE WOULD PROPOSE MOVING FORWARD ON THIS PROJECT BEFORE COMPLETION OF SURVEY. ESTIMATED COST: \$50,000 PER ANNUM.

C. /TEXTBOOKS/: TEXTBOOKS ENGLISH TEACHING IN ITALY OFTEN OUT-OF-DATE OR INAPPROPRIATE BECAUSE OF ANTI-AMERICAN CONTENT. GRANT PROJECT SHOULD PROVIDE FOR SURVEY OF EXISTING TEXTS AND DEVELOP (IN COOPERATION WITH MIN EDUCATION) ENGLISH-TEACHING TEXTBOOKS FOR SECONDARY AND COLLEGE LEVELS AND NEEDED. ESTIMATED COST: \$20,000 (TO BE INITIATED FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF SURVEY).

4. /IV PROGRAM/

PROBABLY OUR SINGLE MOST EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR PROMOTING UNBIASED
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VIEW OF U.S. AND ITALIAN INTEREST IN STUDY OF THINGS AMERICAN IS IV PROGRAM. RECOMMENDED INCREASING FIVE-FOLD ITALIAN GRANTS FROM 30 TO 150 FURTHER STRETCHING FUND WHERE POSSIBLE THROUGH JOINT FUNDING. ENLARGED PROGRAM WOULD FOCUS ON INFLUENTIAL PROFESSIONALS WHO WOULD GAIN MOST FROM U.S. EXPOSURE, E.G., GOVERNMENT AND PARTY OFFICIALS, JOURNALISTS AND ACADEMICS. ESTIMATED COST: \$300,000 (ANNUAL).

5. /STUDENT COUNSELLING/

PROPOSE BUILDING ON MISSION' S CURRENT PILOT PROJECTS, PLUS RECENT (ZIEGLER) STUDY EDUCATIONAL COUNSELLING IN ITALY TO FOSTER ITALIAN ASSUMPTION RESPONSIBILITY FOR COUNSELLING. GOAL WOULD BE TO MOVE COUNSELLING TO ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SITES, AND SHIFTING INITIALLY TO BINATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY. DECENTRALIZED COUNSELLING SERVICE WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY A NATIONAL COUNSELLING OFFICE TO PREPARE, PRINT AND DISSEMINATE MATERIALS, ORGANIZE PERIODIC MEETINGS, AND GENERAL COORDINATION OF ITALY-WIDE COUNSELLING EFFORT. EVENTUAL AIM IS FOR BETTER, MORE EASILY ACCESSIBLE COUNSELLING, WITH U.S. ROLE CONFINED TO PROVIDING REFERENCE WORKS, PRINTED MATERIAL ANSWERING MOST COMMON QUESTIONS AND MAINTAINING STANDARDS THOROUGH ITINERANT COUNSELLING EXPERTS AND OTHER SUPPORT TO NATIONAL FROM

BEGINNING (PERHAPS THROUGH FULBRIGHT COMMISSION OR ASSOCIATIONS),
SEED MONEY FOR PUBLICATION OF MATERIALS AND INITIAL SUPPORT FOR
COUNSELLORS WOULD BE NECESSARY. ESTIMATE INITIAL YEAR COST:
\$50,000.
(MORE)

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6. /AMERICAN STUDIES/

AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM IN ITALY NEEDS SUBSTANTIAL EXPANSION;
MUCH GREATER EFFORT SHOULD BE EXPENDED IN FIELDS WHERE AMERICAN
EXPERIENCE IS BOTH OF HIGHEST QUALITY AND PARTICULARLY GERMANE
TO NEEDS OF CONTEMPORARY ITALY, AND WHICH ARE NOW SLIGHTED
BY ITALIAN AMERICANISTS: LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION,
MANAGEMENT, SOCIAL WORK, JOURNALISM, ECONOMICS, POLITICAL SCIENCE,
ECOLOGY AND ENERGY.

A. /SEMINAR SERIES/

PROPOSE SERIES OF GRANTS TO TEAM OF AMERICA SPECIALISTS IN
ABOVE FIELDS WHO WOULD JOIN ITALIAN COLLEAGUES IN SERIES OF
LECTURES, SEMINARS, AND TO LEAD DISCUSSION GROUPS IN SELECTED
ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES ON "TOWARD A NEW DEFINITION OF AMERICAN
STUDIES," DESIGNED TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN THESE SPECIALTIES
TO COMPETE WITH PRESENT DOMINANCE OF LITERATURE. ESTIMATED
COST: \$50,000 (ANNUAL).

B. /SUMMER IN U.S. PROGRAM/

SAMPLE GROUP BEST STUDENTS IN ABOVE DISCIPLINES WOULD SPEND
SUMMER BEFORE /LAUREA/ IN AMERICAN SUMMER SCHOOL GETTING FIRSTHAND
EXPOSURE TO AMERICAN METHODOLOGY THEIR FIELDS WHILE ALSO IMPROVING
KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH. ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM COULD BE ASSUMED
BY FULBRIGHT COMMISSION. ESTIMATED COST: \$100,000 (ANNUAL).

C. /JUNIOR LECTURES/

FIFTEEN JUNIOR LECTURERS IN FIELDS SUCH AS THOSE LISTED IN

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INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH (6. AMERICAN STUDIES) ABOVE. COST ESTIMATED:
\$100,000 (ANNUAL).

D. /POST-GRADUATE GRANTS/

NUMBER OF POST-GRADUATE GRANTS ON COST-SHARING BASIS WITH
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE INCREASED FROM 30 TO 50 IN SELECTED
FIELDS FOR CREATION OF A CORPS OF HIGHLY TRAINED PROFESSIONALS
AND ACADEMICS WITH IN-DEPTH AMERICAN EXPERIENCE. ESTIMATED
COST: \$100,000 (ANNUAL).

E. /DONATED BOOKS PROGRAM/

BOOKS IN ENGLISH, PARTICULARLY AMERICAN BOOKS, ARE EXPENSIVE
AND HARD TO GET IN ITALY. DONATED BOOK PROGRAM PROVIDES
AMERICANISTS WITH GOOD, USEFUL BOOKS CHEAPLY. PROGRAM SHOULD
BE INCREASED TO LEVEL OF \$5,000 ANNUALLY.

7. /BOOK TRANSLATIONS/

VERY SERIOUS DEFICIENCY EXISTS OF IMPORTANT AMERICAN BOOKS,
ESPECIALLY SCHOLARLY TEXTS, IN ITALIAN. IN ABOVE FIELDS (PARA 6),
MANY STANDARD AMERICAN TEXTS, USED THROUGHOUT WORLD, ARE UNAVAILA-
BLE OR EXIST ONLY IN ABYSMAL, TRULY UNUSABLE TRANSLATIONS.
MANY AREAS OF AMERICAN SOCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES ALMOST
UNREPRESENTED IN ITALIAN. GRANT PROGRAM SUBSIDIZE PUBLICATION
OF TRANSLATIONS, PERHAPS LEADING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF ROTATING
FUNDS WHICH PUBLISHERS WOULD USE FOR CONTINUING EXPANDED
TRANSLATION PROGRAM. PROGRAM SHOULD FOCUS ON IMPORTANT
AMERICAN BOOKS, ESPECIALLY SCHOLARLY WORKS IN SELECTED FIELDS.
(THIS IN ADDITION TO CONTEMPORARY TEXT FOR ITALIANS LEARNING
ENGLISH (PARA 3C ABOVE). ESTIMATED COST: \$125,000 (ONE TIME ONLY
IF REVOLVING FUND ESTABLISHED).

8. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ABOVE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN
DISCUSSED WITH MISS SCALBA WHO CONCURS IN GENERAL THRUST BUT WHO
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POINTS OUT THAT SHE CANNOT SPEAK FOR COMMISSION AT THIS TIME.
MISS SCALBA WILL BE COMMUNICATING WITH CU/EU BY LETTER WITH
DETAILED PROPOSALS, SEVERAL OF THEM ELABORATING ON ABOVE
PROJECTS.HOLMES

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: SEDU, OEXC, IT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cc4ae360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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